

**NOTICE OF MOTION****CONSERVATIVE GROUP****ELECTRICITY INTERNET**

“This Council notes that the Conservative Party has recently issued a green paper - *The Low Carbon Economy – Security, Stability and Growth* – which sets out proposals to create an electricity internet. An electricity internet has the potential to hugely improve the efficiency of electricity generation and consumption and to help unlock large-scale use of renewable energy in Brighton & Hove in particular and the UK in general.

This Council notes that the fundamental architecture of the generation and consumption of electricity in the UK has changed little since the National Grid was first established in the 1930s, and is based on a centralised system of command and control. There is little scope to intelligently balance capacity and demand and around two thirds of energy used in large, centralised power stations never reaches the consumer.

The proposals contained in the paper seek to address these long-standing problems through:

- transforming electricity networks with ‘smart grid’ and ‘smart meter’ technology so that the use of electricity for a wide range of household and workplace appliances can be tailored automatically to match the supply
- creating a decentralised micro-generation energy revolution by introducing a system of ‘feed in tariffs’ for electricity generation as has occurred in countries such as Germany
- vastly expanding the amount of offshore wind and marine power by incentivising the construction of a new network of under-sea Direct Current cables
- incentivising electricity network operators to establish a new national recharging network for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles

This Council believes that a transformation on this scale would benefit

- (i) the consumers of Brighton & Hove, through lowering energy bills and giving them the capacity to generate and sell electricity;
- (ii) the global climate, by reducing carbon emissions;
- (iii) the U.K. population as a whole by enhancing energy security.

Furthermore, this Council believes that the electricity internet proposals would be very popular in Brighton & Hove given the significant local interest there is in the conservation of natural resources.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- endorse the proposals laid out in *The Low Carbon Economy – Security, Stability and Growth* – to create a decentralised electricity internet.
- Instruct the Acting Chief Executive to write to the Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change – Greg Clark MP - the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change – Ed Miliband MP - and the City’s 3 MPs confirming the Council’s support for an electricity internet and a local energy revolution.
- Ask the Lead Member for Sustainability to examine possible sources of funding which could enable local residents to benefit from an electricity internet in the future.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Brian Oxley

Seconded by: Cllr. Denise Cobb